

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 1017.P028US

09/996,098

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed October 9, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

The examiner indicated that Claims 10, 13, 16, 20-23, 26, 29-32, 34-36 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and included all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10, 13, 16, 20-23, 26, 29-32, 34-36 and 39 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 10, 13, 16-17, 20-23, 26, 29-32, 34-36 and 39.

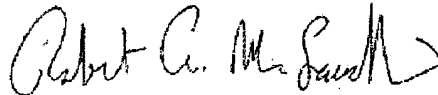
Should the Examiner have any questions or desire clarification of any sort, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below. Please reference Attorney Docket No. 1017_P028US.

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While Applicants believe no fee is due with the transmission of this response to office action, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2240 of Koestner Bertani LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. McLauchlan
Reg. No. 44,924
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Dated: December 8, 2003

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Sent: Monday, December 8, 2003 7:36 PM
To: rmclauchlan@kbpatents.com
Subject: Successful transmission to 17038729306. Re: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/996,098

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